

the Central Electricity Authority, while according techno-economic clearance, inter-alia, looks into the reasonableness of the cost.

(c) The cost of power generation of a project is dependent upon its year of completion, completed cost, type, technology, location, funding pattern, interest rates, price and source of fuel, etc., which render comparability of cost of generation of different plants difficult.

[Translation]

Railway Projects

1512. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway projects announced by the Government during the last five years;

(b) the details of projects lagging behind their original schedule alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the cost over run in respect of each project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Old Telephone Exchanges

1513. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of old telephone exchanges in Mumbai;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are twelve exchanges of old Technologies (electro mechanical).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These twelve exchanges are with a capacity of 131000 lines. 40,000 lines are likely to be replaced during 97-98 and rest in subsequent years.

Visit of Central Team to Abroad

1514. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether team led by Cabinet Secretary went abroad for encouraging foreign investment in Power Transmission Sector;

(b) if so, the names of other members of the team and the names of countries visited by them alongwith the period of stay there;

(c) whether this team has been assured of investment by the certain foreign investors;

(d) if so, the amount of investment likely to be made as per this assurance; and

(e) whether foreign investment in Power Sector in the country is legally permissible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) A joint Government/business delegation led by the Cabinet Secretary visited USA to meet and interact with the various types of interests most likely to affect decision to invest in infrastructure including power sector in the country.

(b) The delegation visited USA in June, 1997 (between 8th-18th June, 1997) for a period of seven working days. The names of the members of the official delegation are as follows :

1. Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Cabinet Secretary.
2. Shri N.P. Bagchee, Secretary, Ministry of Coal.
3. Shri Yogendra Narain, Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport.
4. Dr. Shanker N. Acharya, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance.
5. Shri Shyamal Ghosh, Secretary, Dept. of Electronics (Only at San Jose)
6. Shri Pardeep Bajjal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power.
7. Dr. Avinash Chandra, Director General, Hydro Carbons, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
8. Sh. Dharendra Singh, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

The names of the members of business delegation are as follows :-

1. Shri Anil Ambani, Managing Director, Reliance Industries.
2. Shri K.K. Modi, Chairman, Modi Enterprises.
3. Shri K.G. Ramanathan, CMD, IPCL, Baroda.
4. Shri Ashok Aggarwal, Director, TCI, Infrastructure Finance Ltd.
5. Shri C. Das Gupta, Dy. Managing Director, CESC Ltd.
6. Dr. Som Dutt, Som Dutt Builders.
7. Shri C.L. Verma, CMD, Continental Construction Ltd.